

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
Of Agriculture

Forest Service

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Ojo Peak Rehabilitation Area Closure Now in Effect

Mountainair, NM – February 21, 2008: An official Ojo Peak Rehabilitation Area Closure Order is now in effect. Order #03-0236 officially went into effect on February 20, 2008. The Ojo Peak Fire area had previously been under an emergency fire closure. The purpose of this order is to protect resources and to provide for public health and safety.

Order #03-0236 officially prohibits any person from going into or being upon National Forest System lands, roads or trails within the Ojo Peak Rehabilitation areas as shown on Exhibits A & B (see attached maps).

The closure area includes:

- ◇ Forest Road #422 from Red Canyon Campground to Pine Shadow Trailhead
- ◇ Forest Road #275 from the forest boundary to Forest Road #422
- ◇ Forest Road #522 from Forest Road #275 to Forest Road #253
- ◇ Pine Shadow Trail and Trailhead
- ◇ Cottonwood Trail and Trailhead
- ◇ Kayser Mill Trail and Trailhead
- ◇ Ox Canyon Trail and Trailhead
- ◇ All Non-National Forest system roads and trails within the Ojo Peak rehabilitation area are included in this closure order

Persons exempt from this order include:

- ◇ Persons with a permit specifically exempting them from the effect of this order
- ◇ Owners or lessees of private land within the Ojo Peak Fire Rehabilitation area to extent necessary to gain access to their land
- ◇ Any federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty

This order shall remain in effect until rescinded or until December 31, 2008, whichever event occurs first. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor or by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.

Please see attached documents for more specifics of the closure order and for maps of the closure order.

For further questions about the closure order, please contact the Mountainair Ranger District at (505)847-2990.

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